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Rep. Ed Gaffney, Chairman House Health Policy Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee!

Due to my years of experience in sharing the truth to women about to make a major health decision, I would like to express my support of HB 4446. For seven years, I have stood in front of abortion clinics and shown medical charts and health facts to women. During this time, I had an opportunity to talk with clinic workers and many women who were in a crisis pregnancy situation. Former clinic WORKERS confided in me that they were forbidden to show the ultra sound to the clients and in several instances would lie to the women as to how far along they were, so they could require more money for the later term procedure. One woman told us they, the clinic, confirmed she was pregnant and scheduled her for the abortion, and she later learned she was NOT and canceled the appointment. (I keep a journal and can confirm the dates, but confidentiality prevents me from revealing their identity).

Women deserve to know the truth and have as much information offered to them, before making a major health/life decisions. What is the harm in requiring health service clinics to follow procedures that other licensed medical facilities routinely follow? Would you want to make a decision about undergoing a medical surgery without verifying all the facts and conditions?

I will pray you use your authority to allow women to be entitled to see their ultrasounds before making a decision to undergo surgery.

Respectfully,

Judy Paga